

# Saint Andrew School

PROVIDING A QUALITY  
ROMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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## HOW DID WE GET TO WHERE WE GOT; AND NOW, WHAT DO WE DO?

For years, I have been entertained, challenged and inspired by the adventurous antics and life lessons offered by a terror of a six-year-old, named Calvin, and his just-as-impish pet tiger (stuffed animal), named Hobbes. In one of Bill Watterson's comic strips, Calvin and Hobbes are hopping from stepping-stone to another making their way across a field until there are no more and then Calvin says: "You know what's weird? Day by day, nothing seems to change, but pretty soon ... everything's different."

You know what's weird? Day by day, nothing seems to change, but pretty soon... everything's different.



Too frequently we go through life just focusing on the comfortable and easy and when that comes to an ends, sometimes rather abruptly, we finally look up and wonder: "How did we get to where we got ... everything's different; and now, what do we do? One of the things that we might not be paying attention to with the appropriate priority is our relationship with God as we journey through life. We can at times become so self-absorbed that we lose focus on who we are and, ultimately, Whose we are.



# Saint Andrew School

One of the greatest gifts with which God has blessed us beyond our reflective intellect and our free will is the ability to speak so as to reveal the reality of who we are and share the superabundance of grace with which He has graced us. Too frequently throughout human history, the human creature has forgotten his proper dignity and has approached the gift of language with a cavalier manner or worse, abusing the gift of words in opposition to its purpose, namely, communication, communion, revelation. Famous for his captivating preaching, particularly on “justice” in the last century, Jesuit Father Walter J. Burkhardt poignantly stated: “Words, I have learned from experience, can be weapons, and words can be healing. Words can unite in friendship or sever in enmity. Words can unlock who I am or mask me from others. Two words, *Sieg Heil*, bloodied the face of Europe; three words, “Here I stand,” divided the body of Christendom. Words have made slaves and freed slaves, have declared war and imposed peace. Words sentence to death (“You shall be hanged by your neck”) and words restore life (“Your sins are forgiven you”). Words declare a marriage dead, and words covenant a life together in love. Words charm and repel, amuse and anger, reveal and conceal, chill and warm. Words clarify and words obscure. A word from Washington rained down atomic hell on Hiroshima; words from an altar change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. ... A word is real; a word is sacred; a word is powerful; a word is . . . I.” He reminds us that our words, always reveal our genuine selves, whether it is in our careful and respectful use or unprincipled abuse of the gift of language.

One of the great examples of this careful use and respect for the gift of words is embodied in the person of the once-Chancellor of England, Sir Thomas More, who went to his death for not yielding to being bullied into saying something that was not true and in violation of God’s eternal Law. Reportedly, his final audible words in this world revealed the essence of his person, when just before being beheaded he stated: “I die the king’s good servant, but God’s first.”

The description of St. Thomas More by one of his contemporaries, Robert Whittington, became the inspiration for the title of the play and movie that would highlight the greatness of his witness to conscience. Whittington said: “More is a man of an angel’s wit and singular learning. I know not his fellow. For where is the man of that gentleness, lowliness and affability? And, as time requireth, a man of marvellous (sic) mirth and pastimes, and sometime of as sad gravity. A man for all seasons.” In the masterful film, “A Man for All Seasons,” (1966) highlighting the life and events leading up to the martyrdom of St.



Thomas More, based upon Robert Bolt’s screenplay of the same name; there is a scene in which Sir Thomas More is testifying before the inquiry committee made up of Thomas Cromwell, the Archbishop of Canterbury and More’s friend, the Duke of Norfolk, hoping to compel More to take the oath and sign the Act of Supremacy which acknowledged the King’s invalid marriage to Anne Boleyn and recognizing her children as heirs to the throne over those of Queen Catherine and making Henry VIII and his successors supreme head of the Church. Mind you that the oath began and ended with these words (in Old English): “*I (state your name) do utterly testifie and declare in my Conscience, ... so helpe me God: and by the Contents of this Booke.*” (The Holy Bible) In the dialogue, Norfolk (not the brightest bulb in the box), genuinely concerned for his friend’s well-being, tries to convince Thomas to just compromise and Thomas would not “just compromise” because his immortal soul and his relationship with God was at stake, a principle and priority that he would not concede, no matter what. The dialogue follows:

**Norfolk:** *Oh, confound all this...I’m not a scholar, as Master Cromwell never tires of pointing out, and frankly I don’t know whether the marriage was lawful or not. But damn it, Thomas, look at those names ... You know those men! Can’t you do what I did, and come with us, for fellowship?*

**More:** *And when we stand before God, and you are sent to Paradise for doing according to your conscience, and I am damned for not doing according to mine, will you come with me, for fellowship? ... Some men think the earth is round,*

others think it flat. It is a matter capable of question. But if it is flat, will the King's command make it round? And if it is round, will the King's command flatten it? No, I will not sign.

**Cromwell:** Then you have more regard for your own doubt than the King's command?

**More:** For myself I have no doubt.

**Cromwell:** No doubt of what?

**More:** No doubt that I will not take this oath. But why I will not, you, Master Secretary, will not trick out of me.

**Cromwell:** I might get it out of you in other ways.

**More:** You threaten like a dockside bully.

**Cromwell:** How should I threaten?

**More:** Like a minister of state, with justice!

**Cromwell:** Justice is what you're threatened with.

**More:** Then, I am not threatened.

Regardless of our evaluation of the classic movie being inconsequential to us moderns, Robert Whittingham's designation of More as "a man for all seasons" is as eloquent as it is relevant. In every age and culture, the seduction of power, wealth, sensuality and status in this world remains a constant and steady threat to human integrity and dignity, because it ultimately denies Truth and the supreme presence of God over His creatures. One commentator wrote: "Corruption occurs not because people are inherently evil, but because they are offered rewards to do things that may not seem so bad, or that they can rationalize away as acceptable [*even though, they are objectively evil acts*]. People also say and do things they know are wrong because they are threatened with death or suffering. More becomes an example for all times because he resists both the temptation and the pressure to violate his conscience." (*my addition*)

The point, my friends, is that God has endowed the human creature with the gift of conscience with which He has placed into our hearts the eternal law of His love; not the law carved into stone; but the one that He has written on our hearts. It might be likened to a spiritual GPS, annoying as it may be at times, to keep us on the road toward which we are ultimately directed. Our consciences, however, are not automatically updated by some outside disinterested firm or software; rather, each of us is responsible for sustaining an on-going relationship with God and putting in the effort to maintain a well-informed conscience through prayer and study, or as our motto posits: Faith and Knowledge. In his Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace (1 January 2012), Pope Benedict XVI stated:

*Education is the most interesting and difficult adventure in life. Educating, from the Latin, "educere," means leading young people to move beyond themselves and introducing them to reality, towards a fullness that leads to growth. ... Education, indeed, is concerned with the integral formation of the person, including the moral and spiritual dimension, focused upon man's final end and the good of the society to which he belongs. Therefore, in order to educate in truth, it is necessary first and foremost to know who the human person is, to know human nature. ... the fundamental question that must be asked: who is man? Man is a being who bears within his heart a thirst for the infinite, a thirst for truth – a truth which is not partial but capable of explaining life's meaning – since he was created in the image and likeness of God. The grateful recognition that life is an inestimable gift, then, leads to the discovery of one's own profound dignity and the inviolability of every single person. Hence*



... the desire to "liberate" nature from God leads to losing sight of the reality of nature itself, including the nature of the human being, reducing it to a conglomeration of functions so as to have them available at will to build what is presumed to be a better world and presumed to be a happier humanity. Instead, the Creator's design is destroyed, and so is the truth of our nature.

Pope Benedict XVI  
6 June 2005



# Saint Andrew School

*the first step in education is learning to recognize the Creator's image in man, and consequently learning to have a profound respect for every human being and helping others to live a life consonant with this supreme dignity.*



The conscience of Catholic education or the standard by which it operates is not determined by a consensus of its stock holders nor by the latest social trend or whimsy. Rather, it is rooted in Truth, that is, the person of Jesus Christ, who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life." (Jn 14: 6) In his homily at the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica before the Papal Conclave of 2005 (18 April 2005), in which the Cardinals elected him the pope, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger addresses the foundation upon which our Catholic Faith and thus, our Catholic Schools are built: *Christ's mercy is not a grace that comes cheap, nor does it imply the trivialization of evil. Christ carries the full weight of evil and all its destructive*

*force in His body and in His soul. He burns and transforms evil in suffering, in the fire of His suffering love. ... This is the vengeance of God: He Himself suffers for us, in the person of His Son. The more deeply stirred we are by the Lord's mercy, the greater the solidarity we feel with His suffering - and we become willing to complete in our own flesh "what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ." (Col 1: 24) ... How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking? We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires. And, here he states what the guiding principle and reason is for meeting the contemporary and perennial challenges that Catholic Schools face, at all costs: We, however, have a different goal: the Son of God, the true man. He is the measure of true humanism. An "adult" faith is not a faith that follows the trends of fashion and the latest novelty; a mature adult faith is deeply rooted in friendship with Christ. It is this friendship that opens us up to all that is good and gives us a criterion by which to distinguish the true from the false, and deceit from truth. ... it is this faith - only faith - that creates unity and is fulfilled in love. ... All people desire to leave a lasting mark. But what endures? Money does not. Even buildings do not, nor books. After a certain time, longer or shorter, all these things disappear. The only thing that lasts forever is the human soul, the human person created by God for eternity."*

For these reasons, Catholic education, in general, and Saint Andrew School, in particular, are essential for our young people. Undoubtedly, the task of Catholic education today is most challenging and fraught with many stumbling blocks. God forbid, these challenges wear us down or lead us to discouragement and despair; then, what hope do we hold out to our young brothers and sisters? Rather, by the witness of our lives, that believers in and companions with the Crucified and Risen One encounter, not stumbling blocks, but stepping stones leading us deeper into a friendship with Christ, which can only be sustained by our personal prayer. Aware of the criticism from within and outside the Church and amidst the temptations toward economic or practical convenience to abandon this important mission, Saint Andrew School is also keenly attentive to who it is and Whose it is. And while we may not be clear as to where these stepping stones will lead us, we are certain that the One whom we follow is worthy of our trust because He walks this path with us as we strive to follow in His footsteps. We, therefore, remain constant in our commitment to Jesus Christ, who died that we might live, and our mission to build a culture of Life and a civilization of Love through Faith and Knowledge.

(Rev. Msgr.) Albin J. Grous, Pastor

## From the Principal

An advantage of being a member of the Saint Andrew School community for so long is that I am offered glimpses of the growth, development and success of former students. The fact that many remain close to their Drexel Hill ties through social media make it easy to stay connected. It is so rewarding to hear from those who were students of my early years! They survived and thrived in spite of my inexperience. These days I delight in knowing they, with the help of God's grace, grew to become adults who contribute to society, who work for the good of others, who genuinely support others. There are many Saint Andrew School graduates who come to mind.



Recently, I read the following LinkedIn® post titled, "Confessions of the Youngest of Nine". The author, Colin Lake, was a member of my fourth fifth grade class at Saint Andrew many years ago. Colin wrote:

My mother and father never picked me up when I fell down...

No matter how often life knocks me down. I know how to get up.  
Thank you mom and dad.

My mother and father never took my side when my teachers were "being mean to me."

I know how to take responsibility.  
Thank you mom and dad.

My mother and father helped me understand it was my fault, when I failed out of college.

I persevered and graduated. Today I have an insatiable yearning to continue to learn and read.  
Thank you mom and dad.

My mother and father told my brothers and sisters to figure it out when we fought.

I know how to resolve conflict and my brothers and sisters are my best friends with an unshakable bond.  
Thank you mom and dad!!!!

Perhaps the best thing a leader can do is, give us the why, if we agree with it...then empower us to solve the problem.

#thankyou #leader #teachers

While I did not know Mr. Lake personally, I did have the pleasure of knowing Colin's mother, Joan Lake. Joan was a woman of great faith and humor who trusted this neophyte teacher. Joan had a big hello and an even bigger smile for everyone she met. This was a woman who believed in God, worshiped Him and served His people. For years after her passing Joan's close friends; Peggy Morro,

(Continued on page 30)

## Class Notes

*"It is the bonds that develop over the elementary school years that link alumni for life."*

**Frances Thomas, '49** – Blessed with great classmates – fun reunions all these years until 2019!

*Drexel Hill, PA*

**Joanne Hutchinson Schmitz, '56** – moved to a continuing care retirement community in June 2022. A good move for us and a relief for our children.

*Nashua, NH*

**Katherine Dugan Howe, '56** – Just moved back to Delaware County after over 30 years of being away.

*Newtown Square, PA*

**Joe Sherry, '58** - All six of the Sherry children graduated from Saint Andrew School.

*Medford, NJ*

**Vince McVeigh, '60** – Celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August 2022!

*Downingtown, PA*

**Dennis Wechsler, '73**

– Just retired from WAWA.

*Havertown, PA*

**Maryann Andruszko Mellor, '83** – new job working as a Project Manager at Rivian Automotive.

*Bloomington, IL*

**John & Raphael Vantine Family** - **Mary Vantine '05** & husband Dan had a son, Daniel, born 4/18/22 and live in Philadelphia, PA; **Matthew Vantine '07** married Lauren Davish on 9/16/22 and reside in West Chester, PA.

*Drexel Hill, PA*

**Jose Pascual & Dominique Charette Family** – **Mateo Pascual '16** is a Pre-Junior at Drexel University Engineering; **Charles Pascual '18** is a Freshman at Drexel University Engineering; and **Caroline Pascual '19** is a Senior at Archbishop John Carroll High School.

*Wallingford, PA*

## *In Memoriam*

**Rev. John Peter Stack, O.S.A. '61**

Fr. John P. Stack, O.S.A. passed away on Thursday, October 13, 2022. He was 75. Fr. Stack was a member of the Augustinian community of Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery.



Son of John P. and Helen Stack, he is survived by sisters Mary Ellen, Joanne and Maureen, and many nieces and nephews whom he loved. He was predeceased by his brother Michael Stack.

He attended Saint Andrew School (1953-1961), and Msgr. Bonner (1961-1965).

Fr. John was ordained in 1974 and was first assigned to Msgr. Bonner High School, where he taught, was school chaplain and the senior class studies counselor. From 1979 to 1982 he served the Province as the Vocation Director and resided in Burns Hall, the Pre-Novitiate house on the Villanova University campus. In 1982, he was assigned to the Saint Thomas Monastery community at Villanova. From 1982 to 1999 he served as the Dean of Students at Villanova University, and from 1999 to 2021 he served as the university's Vice President for Student Life. At the time of his retirement from Villanova, he was one of the longest-serving administrators at the University.



Congratulations to our Future City SAS Team, Mr. Rippert and Mrs. Dolceamore for finishing in the top six schools in the region and receiving honorable mention. In addition, the team brought home two special awards: Best Smart City Award presented by SAP and Creative Application of Civil Works Award presented by the Society of American Military Engineers, Philadelphia Post.



### SAS Future City Team

Ella Augustine	Michael Gordon	Violet Morrissey
Libby Baldini	Connor Happold	Braeden Oteri
Hayden Bierling	Jackie Happold	Mason Parsons
Matteo Cancellarich	Gabriella Jackson	Stephane Pascual
Isabel Claxton	Eliana Karasavas	Sophia Pavone
Nicholas Davidson	Paul Lester	Lucas Pio
Katie Dolceamore	Stella LoSasso	Isabel Sater
Audrey Dougherty	Ava Mainardi	Leah Scoleri
TJ Forbes		



## Saint Andrew School Centennial Celebration







Special Thank You to Bobbi & Joe Dougherty and Nicky Verna for all of their hard work over many months - doing the 1,001 things that are required to ensure a successful event of this magnitude. It was a wonderful time, renewing friendships and recalling many events that shape the lives of generations of Saint Andrew Graduates and the faculty that played an important role in the formation of thousands of SAS students.

God Bless You!

# Major EITC Donation

Patrick J. Burns, accomplished business leader in the real estate, food retail (Shop Rite & Fresh Grocer), food and beverage, and hospitality industries (Springfield Country Club / Courtyard by Marriott), has made a huge donation to the BLOCS Scholarship Organization's EITC program. Sharing in this award are the three Drexel Hill parish schools along with Msgr. Bonner / Archbishop Prendergast High School. SAS will receive **\$200,000** in EITC financial aid for the 2023-2024 school year - all thanks to Pat Burns' generosity and commitment to Catholic schools in the Drexel Hill community.



Adults pictured above (left to right): Jeff Gibson (BLOCS Development Manager), Tim Brown (Chief Operations Officer), Rev. Msgr. Albin J. Grous (Pastor), Dr. Helen McLean (Principal) and Pat & Helen Burns.



Pat Burns, with over 30 years of experience building a series of retail supermarkets and shopping centers, managing food service for upscale restaurants and catering facilities, and operating hotel establishments throughout the Greater Philadelphia area, has been recognized as being a champion of healthy food access and economic



development. His achievements have been featured in a variety of local, national and industry news outlets including Good Morning America, USA Today and the New York Times. We are truly grateful for his support of Catholic education and assisting families through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.



*We are truly grateful for Pat Burns' support of Catholic education and assisting SAS families through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Please see pages 15-16 for additional information on the EITC program and the simple application form.*



# Saint Andrew School

## Gymnasium Building Campaign

### Updates:

- The Upper Darby Zoning Board approved our request for zoning variances with minor modifications at the April 26, 2022 Zoning Board meeting.
- At the June 13, 2022 Upper Darby Planning Commission Meeting, the Commission approved our land use plans and will recommend approval to the Upper Darby Township Council.
- On July 19, 2022 an appeal of the UD Zoning Board's decision was filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County by two Foss Avenue families. A judge has finally been assigned to the case but no court date has been set as of 2/28/2023.

### Gift Opportunities

Building Gift Opportunities		
Naming	\$ 500,000	
Gymnasium Opportunities		
Gym Flooring	\$ 100,000	
Bleachers	\$ 50,000	(SOLD)
Scoreboards	\$ 25,000	(each - both SOLD)
Gymnasium Office	\$ 25,000	
Gymnasium Windows	\$ 10,000	each
Main Basketball Hoops	\$ 5,000	(each - both SOLD)
Misc. Gym Equipment	\$ 5,000	

Gift	Initial Gift	Monthly	Per Day
\$ 500,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 410.96
\$ 250,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 6,250	\$ 205.48
\$ 100,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 82.19
\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 41.10
\$ 25,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 625	\$ 20.55
\$ 15,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 375	\$ 12.33
\$ 10,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 250	\$ 8.22
\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 125	\$ 4.11
\$ 3,000	\$ 300	\$ 75	\$ 2.47



I/We wish to support the Gymnasium Capital Campaign with a 3 year pledge as follows:

Total Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Balance Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Purpose / Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

Payable  Monthly  Quarterly  Annual  Other

Pledge Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

Method Of Payment  Cash / Check  On-Line - Faith Direct  
<https://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/PA685/9>

Does your company match gifts?  No  Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name

*All gifts are payable over three years unless otherwise indicated.  
 Pledges are voluntary and not legally binding.*

Thank you for your support!

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





Science & Engineering Fair  
DELAWARE COUNTY



## 64TH ANNUAL DELAWARE COUNTY SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

Each year, students in Delaware County are involved in sophisticated research projects that focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics topics in a variety of categories. The Delaware County Science & Engineering Fair embraces a philosophy that students learn science by doing science. In the process, students meet numerous STEM and research standards by learning how to think and develop critical problem-solving skills that they will need for careers, college, and citizenship.

Students participating in the Delaware County Science & Engineering Fair may conduct a research project in any of the following categories:

Behavior & Social Science	Consumer Science (MS Only)	Mathematics
Biochemistry	Earth & Space Science	Medicine & Health
Botany	Engineering	Microbiology
Chemistry	Environmental Science	Physics
Computer Science		

Seven of our nine entries were award winners at Delaware County Science Fair.

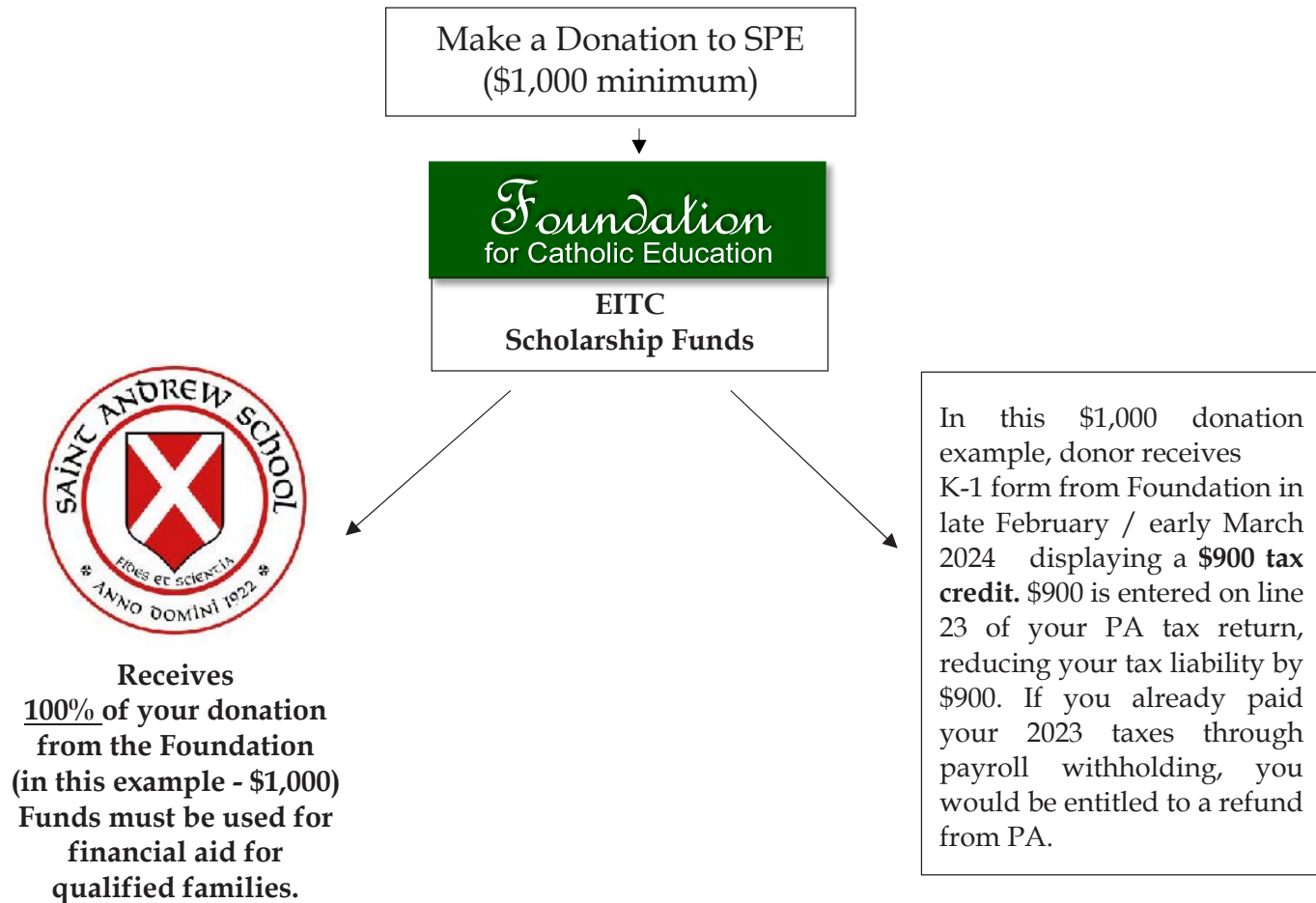


SAS Students		CATEGORY
Hayden	Bierling	Medicine & Health
Madeline	Bozzone	Medicine & Health
Nicholas	Davidson	Zoology
Eliana	Karasavas	Consumer Science
Laina	Mamaluy	Consumer Science
Lily	Martinez	Botany
Sophia	Pavone	Chemistry

## You are making a huge difference!

...to all Alumni, SAS school families, parishioners, businesses and friends of SAS residing in Pennsylvania. Individual tax payers are now able to make a donation to the Foundation for Catholic Education's Special Purpose Entity (SPE) and get 90% of it back in the form of a PA tax credit which reduces your 2023 PA Income Tax obligation.

It's worth repeating - you make a donation and get 90% of it back! For the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, Saint Andrew School will award over \$300,000 in financial aid through these SPE programs thanks to our loyal donors and supporters of SAS.



- This SPE requires a two-year commitment to earn the 90% tax credit (for both the 2023 & 2024 tax years).
- Participation eligibility requires taxable income from a for-profit company. If a married couple has one spouse working for a non-profit and the other spouse working for a for-profit, they are eligible to participate at their total combined income level.
- With the minimum donation level at \$1,000, annual taxable PA income should be at least \$35,000.
- Any questions or for more information, please contact Steve Litz, school business manager, at 610- 259-1169 ([bus.mgr@standrewdh.org](mailto:bus.mgr@standrewdh.org)) or Kevin Kelly, Vice President for Development at the Foundation for Catholic Education, at: [kkelly@foundationFCE.org](mailto:kkelly@foundationFCE.org) or phone - 610-793-8597.
- Interested in helping SAS School families and receiving a 90% tax credit on your donation? Please complete the form on the following page and return to the rectory at 3500 School Lane, Drexel Hill, PA 19026



## COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO SPE

I agree to contribute the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year to the SPE designated by the Foundation for Catholic Education. I understand that the SPE will provide me with a final Operating Agreement. I also understand that my commitment to the SPE will not be final until I agree and sign the SPE's Operating Agreement.

Please accept my contribution for the time period:

- Spring (Check written February-March)
- Fall (Check written October-December)
- Open to either Spring or Fall

My information for contact and tax filing purposes is as follows:

Member Name:	_____
Spouse Name:	_____
School Name:	_____
Home Address:	_____ _____
E-Mail Address:	_____
Cell Phone:	_____
Social Security Number:	_____

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the completed form to:  
The Foundation for Catholic Education  
1373 Enterprise Drive  
West Chester, PA 19380



## PA Commonwealth Court ruling is a massive win for education choice advocates

By Jennifer Stefano, Executive Vice President – Commonwealth Foundation  
Published February 13, 2023

*The only way to ensure adequate and equitable funding to schools is to have education funding follow the child, not the school district.*



The exterior of the Pennsylvania Judicial Center, home to the Commonwealth Court, in Harrisburg. A Pennsylvania judge ruled on Feb. 7, 2023, that the state's funding of public education falls woefully short, siding with poorer districts in a lawsuit that was first filed eight years ago.

After a more than eight-year slog, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court affirmed what the Pennsylvania Constitution has said all along: Kids deserve their education to be about a “meaningful opportunity,” not a flawed and antiquated system.

The ruling is a victory, especially for school-choice advocates, many of whom are parents of color, looking to help their children get out of failing district schools. When Commonwealth Court Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer issued her ruling last week, she gave our most vulnerable children a path forward. The only way to ensure adequate and equitable funding to schools is to have education funding follow the child, not the school district.

The Pennsylvania education system is flawed — that much we can all agree on. The 2014 lawsuit alleged that the state’s system of determining school funding deprives students in poorer districts of opportunities and resources. The court agreed.

In doing so, the court made a critical point that deserves praise; it stopped short of massive judicial overreach and instead rightly highlighted what the state constitution has stated since 1873 — that the power to fix this problem rests with the legislature.

*The only way to ensure adequate and equitable funding to schools is to have education funding follow the child, not the school district.*



# Saint Andrew School

And in directing the people’s elected representatives to fix the problem, Judge Jubelirer took a bold stance, writing: “The options for reform are virtually limitless. The only requirement, that imposed by the Constitution, is that every student receives a meaningful opportunity to succeed academically, socially, and civically.”

The Pennsylvania Constitution calls for an “efficient system of public education.” Nothing is more efficient than the free market, and that’s what we would be creating in Pennsylvania if we follow the judge’s ruling.

If our state really wants to empower communities of color, then it should give money directly to parents and caregivers. By putting money directly into the hands of families – rather than into government schools run by bureaucrats, where funding tends to benefit administrators rather than students – parents have more options and children have more opportunities.

And that is, at its core, what this is about: more opportunity, more agency, and more chances for children living in poverty to flourish.

*“The options for reform are virtually limitless. The only requirement, that imposed by the Constitution, is that every student receives a meaningful opportunity to succeed academically, socially, and civically.”*

There is a great mythology in America that more spending will lead to greater results. But even advocates for funneling more dollars into a government-run system that consistently fails to help the most vulnerable must concede that more money does not lead to a change in results.

In 2016, Stanford economist Eric Hanushek found that increases in education spending in the United States do not lead to significant improvements in academic outcomes. Look no further than Pennsylvania district schools to see that play out in real time. Pennsylvania school district spending per student increased to \$19,900 in the 2020-21 school year, according to an analysis by the Commonwealth Foundation, exceeding national averages for local, state, and federal per-pupil spending on public schools and ranking eighth in the nation for total per-student public school funding.


And here are the results: In the spring of 2022, only 16.2% of students in the Philadelphia School District in third through eighth grades scored proficient or better in math on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment, down from 21.6% in 2019. In English language arts, only 34.7% of students in those grades were proficient or better. Even accounting for learning loss in the pandemic, these numbers are astounding.

The real solution – one that benefits students – would be for Gov. Josh Shapiro to follow up on his campaign promise to support the “Lifeline Scholarship” bill, which would give kids a lifeline out of failing schools and give decision-making rights to their parents. Shapiro has the backing thanks to last year’s historic House passage of the bill. State lawmakers must come together in support of Lifeline Scholarships, and they should increase the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program, giving all Pennsylvania students the opportunity to succeed.

The court’s ruling opened the floodgates to parental action. As Judge Jubelirer attested, “the options for reform are virtually limitless.” Parents can now sue the state to leave the failing schools they’re arbitrarily zoned into or to push for all school districts to be abolished, eliminating our reliance on property taxes for school funding.

**PLAYBILL®**

Saint Andrew School  
Presents



February 24-26, 2023  
Friday, Saturday at 7:30 pm  
Sunday at 2 pm  
McGettigan Hall

**THANK YOU!!** cast, crew,  
Class of 2022, Home & School  
Association, and SAS Alumni for  
several outstanding performances  
of the 2014 Broadway production  
of Aladdin.



Theatre Program Director  
Dr. Lauren McGinnis '07

Assistant Director  
Skylar Dittbrenner '20

Choreographers  
Lucy Hatfield '20 and Maggie Lyon '20

Production Assistants  
Griffin Miller '22, Finn Boyle '22 Sadie Boyle  
'18, and Haley Dittbrenner '17

Playbill  
Haley Dittbrenner '17

Set Design  
Stella Magee '22

Stage Crew Managers  
Stella Magee '22 and Skylar Kritz '22

W	
Aladdin .....	Paul Lester
Genie .....	Audrey Dougherty
Jasmine .....	Tegan OChuilin
Jafar .....	Trevon Veney
Sultan .....	Ciaran Boyle
Iago .....	Madeline Bozzone
Babkak .....	Chris Odeniyi
Omar .....	Connor Happold
Kassim .....	Mason Gray
Isir .....	Ariel Weber
Manal .....	Chloe Jean Baptiste
Rajar .....	Jummy Rufas
Razoul .....	Taylor Hyland
Guards .....	Ajiri Omuyeh Ujiro Omuyeh
Beggars .....	Ivery Potoway Sarah Bold
Apple Vendor .....	Rafaella Sterling
Fortune Teller .....	Chloe Odeniyi
Gypsies .....	Katrina Manning Ella McDevitt Lilly Martinez
Shop Owner .....	Inayah Claxton
Prince Abdullah .....	Caylin Alosi

**Agrabahns**

Nina Bargblor, Alanna Greaves, Rosemary Meermans,  
Layla Sheppard, Alice Binda, Elizabeth Lyon, Juliana  
Smith, Erin Johnson, Alanna Perry, Stella Pyfer, Danielle  
Pyfer, Angel Legg, Karlynn Pulliam, Norah Sater

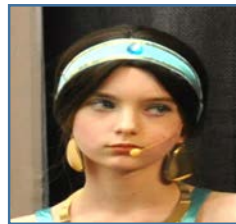
**Stage Crew**

Angelo Hutchinson, Anthony Loggia, Brayden Peterson,  
Cassidy Oteri, Charlotte Odeniyi, Clare Lester, Corinne  
King, Hayden Bierling, Alyssa Martin, Irelyn Ewing,  
Isabel Claxton, Isatu Bangura, Jackie Happold, Justin  
Anglin, Katie Dolceamore, Kayana Lavache, Luke  
Meermans, Madelyne Lonabaugh, Ava Maindari, Mary  
Catherine Rudolph, Mason Parsons, Musa Bangura,  
Nyjlah Watson, Oumou Addo, Seamus Muldoon,  
Stephane Pascual, Taylor Rodriguez, Zayne Kritz,  
Somaya Hylton



# Saint Andrew School





# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## Amid the Pandemic, Progress in Catholic Schools


OPINION: POTOMAC WATCH

### A Bleak Report Card for America's Schools

The Nation's Report Card (see link at end of article) is out, and it is dismal. The 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress, released Monday found that achievement in reading and math among fourth- and eighth-graders has dropped since 2019 in nearly every state.

To the extent that anyone could deny it before, the results settle the debate: America's response to the pandemic set a generation of students back. But amid the bad news, Catholic schools were a bright spot, reflecting how these schools are making a difference in students' lives.

From the beginning of the pandemic, American Catholic schools have shown how community focused, mission-driven leadership can benefit children. In March 2020, Catholic schools were among the first to close as Covid hit. In the fall of 2020, after we had learned more about curbing superspreader events and as it became clear that children were the least vulnerable to the virus, more than 92% of Catholic schools across the country reopened for in-person learning, compared with 43% of traditional public schools and 34% of charters.



**“...if Catholic schools were a state, they would be the highest performing state in the country.”**

National Catholic Educational Association

**This week's NAEP data show how important reopening was for learning.** Today, the divergence between Catholic schools and public ones is so great that if all U.S. Catholic schools were a state, their 1.6 million students would rank first in the nation across the NAEP reading and math tests for fourth and eighth grader

Catholic-school students now boast the nation's highest scale scores on all four NAEP tests. The average score among fourth-graders in Catholic schools was 233, 17 points higher than the national public-school average, or about 1½ grade levels ahead. In eighth-grade reading, the average score for Catholic school students was 279, 20 points higher than the national public-school average, or about two grade levels ahead.

When disaggregated by race, Catholic schools showed significant gains since 2019. In particular, achievement among black students enrolled in Catholic schools increased by 10 points (about an extra year's worth of learning), while black students in public schools lost 5 points and black students in charter schools lost 8 points. Similarly, on the eighth-grade reading test, Hispanic students in Catholic schools gained 7 points while Hispanic students in public schools lost 1 point and Hispanic students in charter schools lost 2 points.

***Catholic-school students now boast the nation's highest scale scores on all four NAEP tests.***

Catholic schools lead the nation for Hispanic achievement on each of the four tests, and lead the nation in black student achievement on three of the four. They also rank first in eighth-grade reading and third in both fourth-grade reading and fourth-grade math for students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch.

The report is good news for what has been until now a weary sector. The pandemic strained Catholic schools, particularly urban ones that serve the neediest, but pastors, principals and diocesan leaders pressed forward to serve communities. That revitalization was spurred by parents who saw how Catholic schools responded to the

pandemic and who drove the first nationwide Catholic-school enrollment increase in two decades.

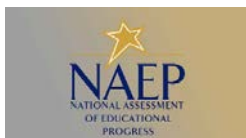
As public-school enrollment plummeted, Catholic-school enrollment rose by about 4% between 2020-21 and 2021-22, increasing in every region of the country, even where the overall population of school-age children declined.

Those trying to undercut the Catholic-school success story dismiss the results as merely the high performance of elite private schools. But K-8 Catholic schools are the only private elementary schools in America that serve the urban poor at scale. The average annual tuition for a K-8 Catholic school is \$5,300 – about one-third what states spend per child on public schools.

At Partnership Schools, we serve under-resourced communities in 11 Catholic schools. Enrollment surged over the past two years, growing by 40% in our Cleveland schools and 18% in our New York City ones. In New York, our share of low-income students grew from 65% to 79% since 2020. In Cleveland, almost all our students are low-income, and the average annual income of their families is \$18,000.

While many political leaders called the learning losses inevitable, the performance of Catholic schools in this difficult time shows that they weren't. During the pandemic, we didn't lower our standards or accept falling enrollment as inevitable. What we needed then and need now is to empower all parents to choose the best school for their children, and to have leaders who set the bar high and insist we reach it for all our kids.

*Ms. Porter-Magee is superintendent of Partnership Schools, a management organization that runs 11 Catholic schools in New York City and Cleveland, and an adjunct fellow at the Manhattan Institute.*



<https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

## 2022 5K Spirit Run & 1 Mile Fun Walk

The 12th Annual Spirit Run was another fantastic event – beautiful weather, a great turnout and another \$10,000 raised for the benefit of Saint Andrew School.

**ST. ANDREW**  
13th ANNUAL  
5K SPIRIT RUN & WALK







Please **SAVE THE DATE** for this fall classic:

## October 28, 2023

- Prizes for the top 3 male & female finishers
- Best costume prize for runners
- Ray Ewing Spirit Award for 1<sup>st</sup> place 5K male & female alumni runners
- All proceeds to benefit Saint Andrew School

### Spirit Run Committee Members

Kelsey Bierling	Bo Nelson
Kim Dougherty	Mike Nichols
Paul Gordon	Celeste Quigley
Maureen Kee	Owen Quigley
Gina Kramer	Greg Rice
Tara McFadden	Margaret Stevens
Patty McNevin	Beth Zdinak



# Saint Andrew School

## Saint Andrew School 2022-2023 Annual Fund Campaign

(Gifts Received – August 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023)

We are deeply appreciative of all the donors listed below and on the following page for their generosity in supporting and funding the on-going needs of our parish school.

### Legacy Circle (\$10,000 +)

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous

IRA - RMD (required minimum distribution)  
Endowment Fund & Financial Aid

### SSJ Circle (\$5,000 +)

Anonymous

IRA - RMD (required minimum distribution)

### Principal's Circle (\$2,000 +)

Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rimmer  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Skrovanek

in honor of the Class of 1949

### Principal's Circle (\$1,000 +)

Anonymous  
Paul Bracken, '62  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark T. Bullock, Esq. '74  
Mr. John M. Convery, Jr., '48  
Mary T. DiSipio, '70  
Henry Engell  
William J. Gantz, '45  
Michael Golden  
Robert Goldschmidt, '62

in memory of Sister St. James Logue, SSJ  
in memory of Cecilia M. Bullock  
in honor of the Class of 1948

in memory of Robert F. Gantz '48  
in memory of Harry L. Golden



## Principal's Circle

(\$1,000 +)  
(continued)

John Jenkins, '63  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Oteri  
Deacon '83 and Mrs. Thomas N. Verna

in memory of Kathleen (Jenkins) New

## Red & White Club

(\$500 +)

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Breslin  
Jose Pascual & Dominique Charette  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brennan III

in memory of Mary O. Breslin, Teacher

Regina O'Rourke Trainer, '49

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gordon

John Dolceamore, '19

Anne E. Jenemann

Maryann Andruszko Mellor, '83

John F. Gallen

John J. Salvucci, '74

in honor of Patrick H. Brennan, '05 &

in memory of Elizabeth "Lizzy" A. Brennan, '05

in memory of Rev. Charles O'Rourke - Class of '45

in memory of Henry, Jahn & Dr. William F.J. Gordon

in memory of Jeff Jenemann

in memory of Peg & Ray Andruszko

## Friends of SAS

(\$250 +)

Anonymous

Anonymous, '66

Anonymous

Len Brogan, '80

Robert F. Closkey, Sr., '50

Deacon Daniel N. DeLucca

Rosemarie Muller Dooling, '76

Edna Wynne Hneleski

John J. Kirby

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Lester

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mongeluzi

Mr. and Mrs. John O'Hara

Gus Pasquarella, Esq., '63

Elizabeth J. Robb

Paul & Maria Verna

in honor of SAS students

in memory of Len & Marie Brogan

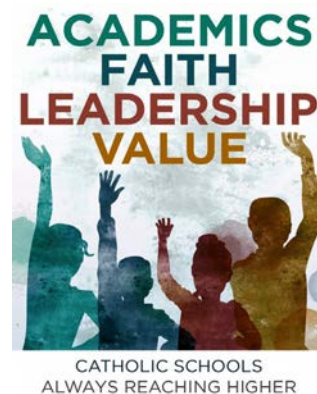
in memory of the Class of 1950

in memory of Margaret "Peggy" DeLucca

in honor of Robert & Mary Muller

in honor of St. Rita

in memory of Marie J. Cooke '52 & John J. Joyce, Jr. '56





# Saint Andrew School

## SAS Steward (\$100 +)

Anonymous

Anonymous, '61

Anonymous, '61

Anonymous, '75

Anonymous

Francis X. Bernard, '58

Terence Brophy, '71

Jim Brophy, '68

Joseph A. Brophy, Jr., '64

Ginny Gillin Bryson, '65

Mr. James J. Burke, '56

Patrick Burke, '81

James Callahan, '73

Eileen & Michael Coleman

Robert DeSimone, '55

John P. Ditmore, Jr., '61

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dominguez

John & Mary Dunbar, '72

Thomas G. Faustman, '62

John Gaffney, '58

Mary Goldschmidt Galloway, '56

James and Margaret Goldhorn, '73 & '74

Bill '75 and Kate Grazel

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Grogan

Vincent A. Guarini, '62

Cynthia Rodgers Hickey, '84

Kathleen McGarvey Hidy, '77

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Kane

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kays, '65

Bill Kelly, '51

James Lake, '80

Mr. Timothy L. Lanshe, '60

Deb - Jack Lees

Richard Light, '62

Edward Lozowicki, '58

Jeremiah J. Lynch

William McDevitt, '64

Mr. Joseph R. McFadden, Jr., '58

in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph

in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph

in memory of Virginia & Joseph Bernard

in memory of Joseph & Berenice Brophy

in memory of Berenice and Joe Brophy

in memory of Joseph A. & Berenice Brophy

in memory of Lucille & Joseph Christine Gillin,

Lucille Gillin Broderick '59 & Christine Gillin '61

in memory of Mr. & Mrs. James F. Burke,

Jeff Jenemann & Robert J. Burke

in memory of Andrew Callahan

in memory of John & Doris Banes

in honor & memory of Catherine Faustman

in memory of James Simpson Rodgers

in honor of Barbara and William H. McGarvey, Jr.

in memory of William & Clare Kays

in memory of Patti Lake-Carroll

in honor of the Class of 1962

in memory of Patricia A. Lynch

in memory of Helene A. McFadden

## SAS Steward

(\$100 +)  
(continued)

Edward J. McGarvey, '63  
Tom McKeon, '77  
John McKeon  
Helen McLean  
Arthur & Eileen McNulty  
Kevin R. McNulty, '72  
Vincent McVeigh, '60  
Bill and Theresa Murphy  
Elizabeth J. Purkis  
Peter Rodgers, '53  
Christina Sabin, '60  
Joanne (Hutchinson) Schmitz, '56  
Greg & Barb Shannon  
Joe Sherry, '58  
Mary Ellen Stack, '62  
Rachel Francini Suraci, '57  
Susan Talbot, '79  
David Toner, '69  
Touey and Company, LLC  
Martha Wallace, '60  
Dennis Wechsler, '73  
Wells Fargo Community Grant

## SAS Donor

(to \$99)

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous, '48  
Charlie Bramley, 80  
Ms. June B. Carey  
Kathleen Carr, '79  
  
Tom '73 & Carla '74 (Musciano) Carson  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin P. Eagan  
Carolyn C. Hoover, '60



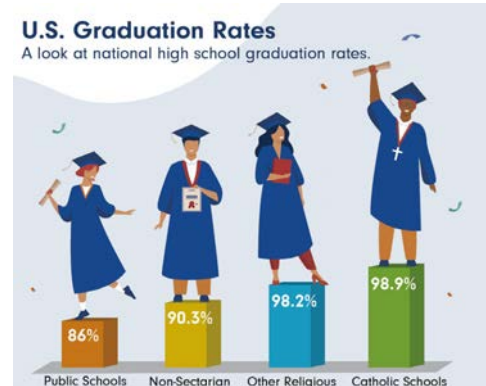
in honor of Eileen & Art McNulty (parents)  
in honor of Sister Elizabeth McVeigh, SSJ  
in memory of Joseph & Coletta Samick  
in memory of Nancy Purkis Villarreal

in memory of Michael Kurl '60  
in honor & memory of sister Kathleen H. Lamay

in memory of the Sherry Family  
in memory of Rev. John P. Stack, O.S.A

in honor of Bob & Peggy Morro

in memory of Georgiana Kilroy



in memory of Raymond G. Peacock

in memory of Kathy, Bobby, Danny & Irene  
in memory of Joanne Bramley  
in memory of Anthony J. Carey and Karl & Marie Boggs  
in honor of my mother, Faith &  
in memory of all deceased members of the Carr family

in memory of Herbert & Margaret Schwabe



# Saint Andrew School

Carolyn C. Hoover, '60  
 Fran Faustman Hopson, '58  
 Katherine Howe, '56  
 Kevin W. Kidd  
 John Knapp, '64  
 Michael Kritz  
 Donald F. Lowe, '59  
 Barbara McGarvey  
 M. Denise Myers, '60  
 Jim Owens, '82  
 Linda Ranieri  
 Frances Ranieri  
 Patricia Sullivan, '54  
 Frances K. Thomas, '49  
 Mr. and Mrs. John A. Vantine

in memory of Marianne Schwabe Paterson  
 in memory of Catherine Faustman  
  
 in memory of Dolores & Norman Kidd  
  
 in memory of Bill McGarvey  
 in memory of Helen & Vince Nolan  
  
 in memory of Edward Ranieri  
  
 in memory of Frank & Helen Kelly  
 in memory of Mia & Gabriel Palucci

(Continued from page 5)

Bernice Brophy and Gerry Dunn, presented a graduating eighth grader with an award in Joan's memory which read:

*The Joan P. Lake Scholarship is awarded to the graduate who best exemplifies the God-given virtues lived by Joan Lake. These include a commitment to our faith, kindness, compassion, consideration of others, a spirit of fun, and recognition of the Presence of God in all.*

Today Colin is the president at CIMA® and works at developing the next leaders in the sales profession. In this capacity he is a social media influencer, for the Good! Colin's siblings have also met with success and do much to contribute to the common Good. Reflecting back to my beginning years, I am most grateful to the parents who trusted me even though I was quite young. They worked with my inadequacies and supported me as I honed my professional skills.

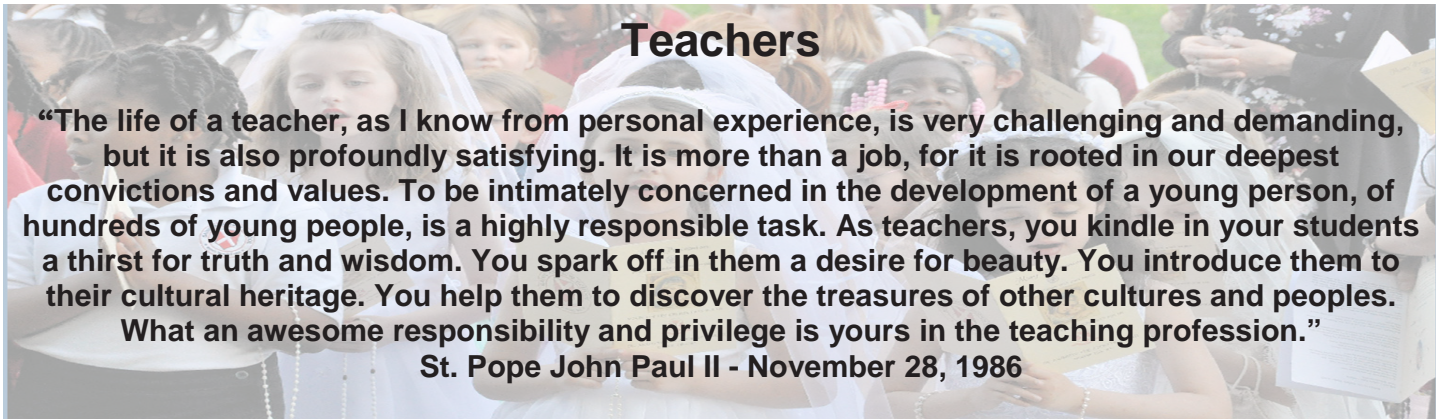
I realize how fortunate I am for having embarked on my teaching career in an era when young teachers were supported and encouraged by colleagues and parents. It takes a great deal of trust for parents hand their child over to educators for eight hours or more a day. Those of us who enter the profession do so with an altruistic belief that one can make a difference and contribute to the formation of our young people. Those who enter Catholic education not only desire to teach, but to share the faith. Frequently, teachers and parents have different perspectives of what is good for the child. However, their desires are the same--to develop fully human beings who know, love and serve God.

When the devil tempted our Lord in the wilderness, Jesus trusted in the Father. This post pandemic time is not unlike the wilderness. The devil is actively creating situations that put us to the test. Let us trust in the Father, as our Lord trusted the Father. Let us trust that those who work in Catholic education have the best interest at heart for their students. Let us trust and understand that parents desire what is best for their children. As adults in the community, let us remember the wisdom of those who have gone before us. Joan Lake would tell us to approach raising and teaching children with prayer and humor! Appreciate one another and strive to understand the viewpoint of the other. This is the way to build a culture of Life and a civilization of Love through faith and knowledge.

May God be praised in all we do

## Saint Andrew School 2022 - 2023 Annual Fund Campaign

Our 2022-2023 Annual Fund Campaign has already surpassed our all-time high from the 2021-2022 campaign which generated \$73,052 in donations. Total gifts received so far through February 2023 now total \$78,330 - a truly fitting tribute as we celebrated our schools Centennial (1922- 2002). Your gifts truly do make a difference in the lives of our students as we begin a new century of providing a quality Catholic education rooted in the Gospel to students in the Drexel Hill and surrounding communities. Whether it is upgrading our facilities or simply assisting in the funding of critical academic endeavors, we are truly blessed and forever grateful for your prayers, generosity and support of our school.



### Teachers

**“The life of a teacher, as I know from personal experience, is very challenging and demanding, but it is also profoundly satisfying. It is more than a job, for it is rooted in our deepest convictions and values. To be intimately concerned in the development of a young person, of hundreds of young people, is a highly responsible task. As teachers, you kindle in your students a thirst for truth and wisdom. You spark off in them a desire for beauty. You introduce them to their cultural heritage. You help them to discover the treasures of other cultures and peoples. What an awesome responsibility and privilege is yours in the teaching profession.”**

**St. Pope John Paul II - November 28, 1986**

**Please complete this section and print your name as you would like it to appear in the Summer 2023 edition of the SAS Alumni Newsletter**

Check here if anonymity is desired

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate of SAS?  No  Yes - Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Saint Andrew School Annual Fund Campaign

Please accept the enclosed gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Saint Andrew School

**Giving Levels:**

- Legacy Circle \$10,000+
- SSJ Circle \$5,000+
- Principal's Circle \$1,000+
- Red & White Club \$500+
- Friends of SAS \$250+
- SAS Steward \$100+
- SAS Donor to \$99

My Gift is:  in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

**I have remembered  
Saint Andrew  
Parish / School in my  
Will.**

**Please direct my gift to:**

- Capital Campaign (Gymnasium)
- Financial Assistance for a SAS Student
- STREAM Projects (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art & Math)
- General School Operations

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saintandrewschool.com

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# Stay Connected



Just moved? New job? Earned a degree? Welcomed a new family member? Or just want to connect with friends and classmates. Please send your latest news to:

**Alumni Newsletter, Saint Andrew School, 535 Mason Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Maiden** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (H)** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have remembered Saint Andrew Parish / School in my Will.**

**News about you or remembrances of SAS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note to Parents: If your son or daughter has moved from your home address, please help us update SAS's alumni records by completing the above form and returning in the envelope provided with this newsletter.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_